Festival	No. of Trains	Festival	No. of Trains
Jai Guru Dev Mela	10	Kartik Purnima	10
Holi	16	Durga Puja	317
Chhat Puja	178	Khwaja Mela	18
Onam	44	Pilgrimage (including Melmaruvathur (Irumudi) & Kumbakonam)	279
Mahamangam	30	Pushkarma Mela	458
Purnagiri Mela	456	Car Festival (Rath Yatra)	46

Accident in Sky Bus Metro Rail

*53. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during a recent test-run of the Sky Bus Metro Rail, one of its bogies, reportedly, oscillated and hit a pole causing loss of lives of some employees on board;

(b) if so, the details of the accident, findings of any inquiry conducted into it and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the results of any fresh review undertaken on the safety aspects of the project and also on the feasibility and/or desirability of its commercial introduction as an alternative urban transportation device to underground metros and over land rail tracks?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Trial runs on the test track commenced from 25th August, 2004. On a return trip, during trial runs on 25th September, 2004, the Officer in-charge observed that the Sky Bus speed was not getting controlled as it was approaching the curve ahead of stopping point, and since the speed was restricted to 20 Kmph on the curve, at some distance in advance of the approach of curve, he reacted to take action to abort the experiment by pressing the emergency button. This provides for cutting off the power and application of pneumatic breaks. The officer did not immediately feel

reduction of the speed but soon found the Sky Bus going into dynamic instability hitting one of the columns resulting in the said accident. During mishap, late Shri T. Babu, Fitter, Konkan Railway Corporation expired and two persons Shri Laxmi Narayan, Engineer, Kernex Microsystems India Ltd. and Ramchandra Murthy, AC Mechanic, South Western Railway were injured.

An enquiry by a Committee consisting of four Heads of the Department of Konkan Railway assisted by Prof. S.C. Lakkad, Deputy Director of Indian Institute of Technology, Pawai and Austrian Engineer has been ordered by Managing Director, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. to go into the details of the accident. The inquiry report is expected to be finalized shortly and further action shall be taken accordingly.

(c) Fresh review on the safety aspect of the project shall be taken after the report of the inquiry Committee ordered by Managing Director, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. is finalised.

Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has constituted a Committee in December, 2003 under the chairmanship of Shri E.V. Indiresan to examine the feasibility of establishing and operating Sky Bus metro service in Indian cities. The terms of reference of this Committee are as under:

(i) To examine the techno-economic and financial feasibility of the Sky Bus metro system.

(ii) To ascertain the safety of the system.

(iii) To critically evaluate novel system component, such as suspended rail technology, traversing systems, etc.

(iv) To critically evaluate the integration of different technologies.

(v) Any other matter considered relevant by the Committee.

Stampede at New Delhi railway station

†*54. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of persons lost their lives at the New Delhi Railway Station as a result of stampede;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.